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REVOLUTIONARY HEROES HONORED IN MADISON COUNTY.

By Mrs. E. S. WALKER.

Illinois cannot claim the length of years in the settlement of towns and cities of some eastern states, yet long before Vermont and Kentucky, (the first states admitted to the Union after the close of the Revolutionary war), were heard of, the Illinois country occupied a place on the maps of North America, and were Kaskaskia not submerged by the Mississippi river, Illinois could proudly boast of that early settlement, the capital of the Illinois country, for 78 years, and afterward of the State.

The centennial mark of one of the counties was reached on September 14, 1912. Appreciating this honor of one hundred years of organization, the citizens of Madison county united in a grand celebration lasting from September 14 to 21, inclusive.

It was a time for the homecoming of former residents who vied with each other and with those now living in the county, in making the centennial celebration a marked event not only for the county but for Edwardsville, the county seat.

Madison county was created a separate county by proclamation of Governor Ninian Edwards in September, 1812; it was fitting therefore that the State Legislature should appropriate \$5,000.00, for the erection of a monument in Edwardsville to commemorate a century of progress in the county and in memory of Gov. Edwards and those whose life work was given in aid of the development of Madison county. On September 16, 1912, the monument was dedicated with elaborate and fitting ceremonies.

This historic day closed with the unveiling of a bronze tablet in the circuit court room of the court house at Edwardsville in memory of 23 Revolutionary soldiers who lie buried in Madison county.

Thus were linked together in history the two wars for independence, as well as the part taken by these pioneer-patriots who aided in laying the foundations for the successful development of Madison county. The work of ascertaining the names of these Revolutionary soldiers and of verifying their records began in October, 1911, and no name has been placed upon the tablet whose war record is not verified.

The program was in charge of the Ninian Edwards Chapter of the D. A. R., of Alton who with descendants of the men, placed the tablet in grateful recognition of service rendered by these soldiers, who with their compatriots were the most heroic, the most devoted to duty, of all men, ancient or modern.

The program opened with an invocation by Rev. J. W. McNeill; Hon. Norman G. Flagg gave an appropriate introductory address; Gov. Charles S. Deneen, whose native city is Edwardsville, brought greetings from the State of Illinois, giving praise to the D. A. R., for their historic-patriotic work, expressing the hope that every county in the State where Revolutionary soldiers are buried, would place a marker, either in bronze or stone, to their memory.

Grandmother's Story of Bunker Hill was read by Miss Nina Gaskins, a lineal descendant of William McAdams whose name is engraved on the tablet. Mrs. L. M. Castle, Regent of the Ninian Edwards Chapter of Alton, the youngest chapter in the State, presented the tablet to the county, in eloquent words portraying the life of the soldiers of the Revolution, not forgetting the part taken by the women of that period.

The tablet was unveiled by Master Norman F. Gillham, who has the honor of being descended from Gaius Paddock and John Gillham, two soldiers, who were honored by their names being placed in lasting remembrance, also he can claim ten direct ancestors, in addition to those already mentioned, who rendered service in the Revolutionary war; also by Master William Krome Delicate, a descendant of Thomas Gillham, one of four by the name of Gillham, all brothers, whose names are engraved on bronze.

The acceptance of the tablet was appropriately assigned to Hon. William H. Hall, a direct descendant of William Hall, one of the immortal twenty-three.

Mr. Hall has been actively interested in searching for Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Madison county, and could speak from the high plane of patriotism of these pioneer settlers of his county.

The music was rendered by the Shurtleff College Quartette of Upper Alton, and was patriotic in every way; especial mention should be made of "Madison, My Madison," the words written by Mrs. L. M. Castle, and set to the music of "Maryland, My Maryland."

It is with no small degree of pleasure that the record of these soldiers is given, thus adding another page to the history of the State of Illinois:

GEORGE BRIDGES.

A native of North Carolina, born February 12, 1762, near Elizabeth, on Cape Fear river; he enlisted at Salisbury, March 10, 1777, under Captains Griffith McCrea and Christopher Goodwin, serving 19 months; enlisted again June, 1780, for three months under Captain James Craig and Col. Fifer; he again enlisted November, 1780, for three months, again serving for three months when he was taken prisoner by the British; and finally for another term of three months in May, 1781. This record covers five terms of service during the war, for a time he acted as drummer for his company; coming to Madison county, Illinois, in 1808, he settled near Troy, he applied for a pension in 1832, which was granted.

DANIEL BROWN.

Was born October, 1757, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, removing to Virginia, he enlisted in Augusta county, August 8, 1776, under Captain John Gilmore, Cols. Russell and William Christian, serving three months, enlisted again for six weeks under Capt. Charles Gadliff; again for six weeks under Capt. John Martin; again for one month from May, 1782, was made sergeant under Capt. McBride, Col. Stephen Trigg, and October, 1782, he served for one month under Capt. Samuel Kirkham, Col. Benjamin Logan. Daniel Brown showed his patriotism by re-enlisting after the war in 1786, for a short term of service. His claim for a pension was allowed in 1832, at which time he resided in Madison county, Illinois, where he lies buried in the Wanda cemetery.

JOHN CARNELISON.

A native of North Carolina, he enlisted June, 1778, under Captains Armstrong and Ramsey; Cols. Mebane, Lytle and McLean; he again enlisted for four years under Capts. Smith, Hedrick, Cole, Childs and Jennings. He was in the battle of Stono; his claim for a pension was allowed while a resident of Fayette county, Kentucky. Removing to Illinois he settled in Greene county, then in Madison county, where he lived with Solomon Pruitt, in 1840, he was 82 years of age and resided with W. C. Johns.

MICHAEL DECK.

Was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1759, where he married, April 25, 1790, Susanna Monger, who was born April 10, 1759; he died April 13, 1843, and his widow was allowed his pension.

Michael Deck enlisted May 5, 1778, under Capt. Robert Craven, and again in 1781, under Capt. Michael Coker; he was in the battle of Yorktown, he early came to Madison county to reside and is buried in Marine. He left a large family of children, thirteen in number.

THE GILLHAMS.

Seldom do we read of so remarkable a family record for enthusiastic patriotic service as the war record of the Gillham family. Thomas Gillham came to America from Ireland in 1730, settling first in Virginia, he removed to South Carolina, Pendleton county. He early espoused the cause of the Colonies, and with his seven sons and two sons-in-law served in the Revolutionary war.

Five of these sons came to Madison county to reside, one, William, later removed to Jersey county.

Four names are engraved upon the bronze tablet; only two ever applied for pensions.

ISAAC GILLHAM.

Was born in Augusta county, Virginia, November 10, 1757, removed to South Carolina in 1763, enlisted in Camden District, December, 1777, for fifty days under Capt. Robert Macupfee, Col. Thomas Neel; again March 29, 1778, under Lieut. Thomas Gillham (probably his father), when he was wounded; served again from May, 1780, to August 18,

1780, under Capt. Barnett and Col. Neel; again enlisting February 15, 1781, to May 1, 1781; and again serving as a scout during the winter and spring of 1781 and 1782, with Capt. Barnett, Col. Bratton and Major Hartshorn. Isaac Gillham was engaged in the battles of Rocky Mount and Fishing Creek. He early came to Madison county, Illinois, where his claim for a pension was allowed.

JAMES GILLHAM.

A son of Thomas, also served with his father and brothers in the war, enlisting in South Carolina, serving acceptably always, then joining the family came to Illinois, settling in Madison county, where he lies buried.

He married Anne Barnett, sister of Capt. Barnett, under whom he served.

THOMAS GILLHAM.

The third son of Thomas, served 210 days in Capt. Barnett's company, Hill's Regiment, and 14 days in Capt. James Thompson's company, Bratton's Regiment, and 40 days in the same company, under Lieut. Dervin, and for this service was paid by the State Treasurer. Thomas Gillham came to Madison county with his brothers.

JOHN GILLHAM.

The fourth son of Thomas, Sr., served in the 6th South Carolina Regiment, as corporal; enlisting March 23, 1776, was discharged June 1, 1777; he was also in the militia under Col. Brandon.

John Gillham married Sarah Clark, in South Carolina and with other pioneers they came to Illinois, settling on the west bank of Cahokia creek, in 1802, in the month of June. He died March, 1832, and is buried with his three brothers in the Wanda Cemetery.

WILLIAM HALL.

A native of Pennsylvania, born in 1762, near Lancaster; he removed to South Carolina and did valiant service in the war of the Revolution. Enlisted in April, 1779, at Long Cane, South Carolina, taking the place of his Uncle, William, marched to Savannah, Georgia, which was burned, later joining Gen. Lincoln at St. Marys; served under Capt.

James McCall, was made sergeant in Capt. William Alexander's company, serving four months. After serving a similar period in Capt. Gilbert Falls' company, he was transferred to Capt. James Duckworth's company, where he served three months. He aided in the defense of Charleston, then entered Capt. Pitt's company, was detailed to transfer provisions to General Gates, until the battle of Camden, August, 1780; during his fifth service under Capt. Falls he was in the battles of Ramsour Mills and Guilford Court House, was also in the battle of Eutaw Springs, where he had charge of 75 prisoners captured in that engagement and delivered them to General Locke. William Hall lived in North Carolina and Tennessee, and in 1815, he removed to Madison county, Illinois, settling near Collinsville, he died May 13, 1846.

A government marker has been placed on his grave.

ANTHONY A. HARRISON.

Was born March 18, 1763, in Westmoreland county, Virginia. He enlisted in Greenville county, Virginia, February, 1781, serving five months under Capt. Lucas, re-enlisted for six weeks under Capt. Newson, he again enlisted in his brother's company, Capt. Joseph Harrison, Col. Alexander Dick.

He was in the battle of Petersburg; he applied for a pension while living in Greenfield township, Madison county; he died in 1842, and is buried in Madison county.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON.

Was a native of Orange county, Virginia, born in 1758, he served in the Revolutionary war from that state, and received a pension for his service.

While a resident of Virginia he is said to have held 18 slaves. After the war he removed to Madison county, and was living in 1840, aged 82. The exact place of his burial is not known, he lived with W. L. Harrison.

JOHN LONG.

A native of North Carolina, born in 1732, in Granville, died in Madison county, February 10, 1839. He enlisted at Granville, serving three months under Capt. Peace, March 1, 1781, and three months from Aug. 1, 1781, under Capt. Hargron Searsay, Col. Taylor. He was in the battle of Guilford.

John Long married in Caswell county, North Carolina, Frances Estes, they came to Madison county, Illinois, at an early day, and prospered financially, owning large tracts of land and after the custom of those early days they kept a hotel.

ELIHU MATHER.

As the name indicates was a resident of Connecticut, from Windsor, where he enlisted in the 3d Regiment, under Col. Wylls, in Capt. Daniel Allin's company, he was a sergeant in the Fourth Regiment, under Col. Butler, January 1, 1781.

He came to Illinois at an early day settling in Madison county, where he died and lies buried, probably in Collinsville.

WILLIAM McADAMS.

Was born in York county, Pennsylvania, in 1760, he enlisted at Hawsfield, Orange county, North Carolina, in the spring of 1779, for three months, under Capt. John Carrington, Col. Armstrong; enlisting again for two years, from 1780, to 1782, under Capt. William Douglass and Nathaniel Christmass, Col. William O'Neale.

After he came to Madison county, Illinois, to reside he applied for a pension, which was granted. He is probably buried in Jarvis.

GAIUS PADDOCK.

A native of Massachusetts, enlisted early in the conflict, was a member of Capt. Isaac Wood's company, Col. Larned's Regiment. He entered the service January 1, 1776, was afterward with the troops that evacuated New York; was in the battle of Trenton and the skirmish at Frog Neck. He re-enlisted for six weeks, and was in the second battle of Trenton and of Princeton; was in several skirmishes and in 1779 and 1780, he served under Lieut. Bates, Col. Bradford's Regiment, Massachusetts line of troops. Coming west he located in Madison county and lies buried in the family burying ground near Moro.

MARTIN PRUIT.

Was born in Virginia, in 1748, he enlisted in the fall of 1778, for two years, under Captains William Campbell and William Edminton with Col. William Campbell, who was made colonel in 1780; he served as

sergeant. He was in the battle of Kings Mountain; came to Illinois and resided in Madison county, where he died and lies buried in the family burying ground in Fort Russell. He applied for a pension in 1832, at the age of 84 years.

ISHAM RANDLE.

Was a native of Brunswick county, Virginia, born in 1759, he removed to North Carolina, where he enlisted in Montgomery county, but later he re-enlisted in Brunswick county, Virginia. His first service was in 1780, for three months under Capt. Crump, Col. Ledbetter; the second service was November, 1781, for four months, with Capt. Edmund Wilkins. He applied for a pension while a resident of Goshen, Madison county, in 1832. It is not known where he is buried.

RICHARD RANDLE.

Was born in Brunswick county, Virginia, in 1751, he was doubtless a brother of Isham; he enlisted in Brunswick county, in 1777, for six weeks, with Capt. John Macklin; Col. Harrison, Virginia line of troops; he again enlisted August, 1780, for nine months, with Capts. James Allen and West Harris, in the North Carolina troops. With his younger brother he came to Madison county, Illinois, to reside, where he died at an advanced age; he and Isham are doubtless buried in Goshen.

HENRY REVIS.

Was born August 11, 1752, in Northampton county, North Carolina, he enlisted in the fall of 1775, for three months, with Capt. Jacob Free; re-enlisted for three months under the same officer, enlisted again under Capt. William Neville, Col. Martin Armstrong. His entire service was for one year. He enlisted at Surry county, North Carolina; came to Illinois with his brother and resided in Madison county where he died; is probably buried in Collinsville. Was pensioned in 1832.

FRANCIS ROACH.

Was born in Fairfax county, Virginia, in 1739, removed to North Carolina, where he enlisted in Dobbs county, April, 1776, in Joseph Session's company, Col. Richard Caswell and Colonel Bryant; enlisted again for three months in 1781, under Capt. John Doughty; re-enlisted

in 1782, for two months, under Col. George Rogers Clark; he again served his country by enlisting in the militia in 1786, under Capt. John Doughty and Col. Benjamin Logan.

He came to Madison county to reside and his claim for a pension was allowed in 1832; Francis Roach located in Hamel, where he died in 1845, at the advanced age of 106 years.

LABAN SMART.

A native of North Carolina, born November 9, 1759, in Franklin county, he enlisted early in 1780, for three months, under Capt. William Brickle, Cols. Allen, Sessions and Kinyon; re-enlisted in 1781, for three months under Capt. Jones, Col. Linton. There is no record of any battles in which he was engaged. He came to Illinois and settled in Pin Oak township, Madison county, where descendants of his still live. He was pensioned in 1832.

HENRY THORNHILL.

Was born in Virginia, in 1757, he entered the service in Rockingham county, under Captain Robert Craven, the year he could not remember served six months; again enlisted serving under Capt. Ragan, 10th Virginia Regiment, for three months, and was discharged at Yorktown, five days before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. In 1832 he was allowed a pension while a resident of Goshen, Madison county, where he is doubtless buried.

JABEZ TURNER.

Was a "Revolutionist before the Revolution" since he entered the service in May, 1775, serving six months as private under Captain Samuel Wilmot; in Col. Ward's Regiment, Connecticut line of troops, again for six weeks in 1776, with Capt. Caleb Allen; Col. Thompson; again in December, 1776, for three weeks, under Capt. Peter Johnson; again for ten days in April, 1777, under Capt. Caleb Mix, and the fifth time he enlisted October, 1777, for two weeks with Capt. James Hillhouse.

He was engaged in the expedition to St. Johns and Montreal; he was serving when the British threatened New York, and retreated with his regiment from Long Island, was actively engaged when the entrance of the British into New Haven was resisted.

Jabez Turner was born in New Haven, Connecticut, January 31, 1756, and died in Godfrey, Madison County, Illinois, December 12, 1846, when past 90 years of age. He removed to Great Barrington, Massachusetts and later to Columbia County, New York, and a few years later came to Madison County, Illinois, to reside.

Several years ago his grave was marked with impressive ceremonies, the teachers and pupils of the public schools were in attendance, thus an object lesson in patriotic study was given at the grave of this hero.

It is probable that there are two and possibly three more soldiers of the Revolution buried in Madison County, their records have not as yet been verified, when this is completed, the military service of these men will be given and their names will be perpetuated as have their companions-in-arms.

FOREFATHERS' GRAVES.

“Beneath the roots of tangled weeds,
Afar in country grave yards lie
The men whose uncrowned deeds,
Have stamped this nation’s destiny.

“We praise the present stock and man,
But have we ever thought to praise
The strong still humble lives that ran
The deep-cut channels of those days?

“Beneath these tottering slabs of slate
Whose tribute moss and mould efface,
Sleeps the calm dust that made us great,
The true substratum of our race.”